

TOWN OF SALEM, CT.

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting, September 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m. Salem Office Building, Room 2

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm by meeting chair Frank Sroka.

Members present:

Frank Sroka

Ken Bondi

Wendy Mikolinski

Andy Lightner

Ada Vaill

Members not present:

None

Visitors:

None

1. Reading of Agenda – chairperson

Frank Sroka presented agenda. No changes to agenda presented.

Motion: Ken Bondi moved to approve Minutes for 05/18/2015 meeting. Seconded by Ada Vaill. Unanimously approved with the exception of Andy Lightner who abstained from voting this motion due to being absent from the meeting.

2. Communications

None

3. Public Comment

None

4. Reports

P&Z Liaison Ada Vaill presented P&Z Committee Updates

The proposed multi-unit housing complex located adjacent to Burnett's Country Gardens on Rte 85, Salem has come to a halt. One multi-unit dwelling has been completed, but no additional units are expected to be constructed as was originally planned.

5. Old Business

Brochure Project: Frank Sroka discussed the need for further dissemination of the EDC Brochure; he suggested the possibility of presenting the brochure during the Apple Festival Event scheduled for October 2015. Wendy Mikolinski offered to represent the EDC at the festival which would include an information table and copies of the brochure. Frank Sroka will reach out to The Congressional Church of Salem's pastor for permission to place this table and present brochure information at the church hosted event.

Business Owner's Survey / Salem Business Data Base: Frank Sroka suggested the EDC committee combine these two projects into one single, cohesive project. All EDC members agreed. Ada Vaill has presented Frank Sroka with a rough draft of a potential article that may be placed in the Our Town publication to entice business owner participation. Frank Sroka will review this draft and forward it to the EDC committee members for review for discussion at the October EDC meeting. Additionally, Frank Sroka presented copies of the Colchester CT Business Association Directory for review and use as guidance in developing the Salem Business Directory. Frank stated he would try and find other similar town business directories and present them at the next EDC meeting.

New Business Owner's packet project: Frank Sroka suggested deferring this project until the EDC had completed the Business Owner's Survey and Data Base. All members agreed.

6. New Business

Frank Sroka presented an article published in The DAY on 09/01/2015 concerning the city of Norwich, CT and a solar energy project currently in development. Frank suggested this type of project may be suitable for currently unused Salem town owned land. The EDC members discussed the potential benefits of this type of project including potential income for Salem via land leasing. The committee was unanimously in favor of this type of project that has little to no negative impact on the physical land being used for the solar energy project.

Wendy Mikolinski stated she was concerned that land available for development in Salem, both private and publicly owned, was not presented adequately in order to entice developers. She suggested the EDC get involved with the process required to make available space known to developers and have the land use allowances and restrictions be clearly defined and publicly marketed to entice development. Frank Sroka will speak to Selectman Kevin Lyden about the protocol for this action and present this information at the next EDC meeting.

Ada Vaill suggested using drone technology for any aerial photos the EDC may need for future projects. Ada stated this service is readily available at a modest cost and can provide excellent imaging.

| Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Salem Town Hall, Room 2.

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Meeting Adjourned 8:29 p.m.